

healthy growing boys. Mark and Luke Borden have the same right to live as any other children. No one doubts that now. We should not have doubted it when they were human embryos either.

SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the patients' bill of rights sponsored by my colleague, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER).

In evaluating the two bills providing for patient protections before us, I had to ask myself which of these bills will improve health care without creating a crisis. According to the Census Bureau 2000 current population report, in my home State of Nebraska, 179,000 people are currently without health insurance.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, the last thing I want is for this body to pass legislation that will significantly inflate the number of uninsured. I have received many letters and phone calls from small business employers in my district asking for leave from the high cost of providing insurance to their employees. Many employers in my district are facing double-digit increases in health care costs this year. The number of phone calls and letters has tripled in the last several weeks from these same employers.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of a Patients' Bill of Rights legislation is to do two things: number one, reduce the ranks of the uninsured; and, number two, increase access to health care coverage. Unlimited lawsuits will accomplish precisely the opposite. They will drive up costs and increase the number of people without health care insurance.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in supporting this bill.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR KLAMATH BASIN

(Mr. THOMPSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk briefly about a problem, a serious problem, affecting the Klamath Basin in California and Oregon. The Klamath River was once the third largest producer of commercially fished salmon and steelhead in the United States of America. Today, the river's coho salmon are listed under the Endangered Species Act, and other fish stocks are in terrible shape.

Since 1905, 80 percent of the Basin's wetlands have been lost to agriculture.

While this has been good for agriculture, it has come at a tremendous cost. Since that time, we have seen massive decline in wildlife. The region's Native American tribes have suffered as a result and so have commercial and sport fishing industries and so have waterlife and waterfowl and those who rely on healthy stocks of the aforementioned.

The commercial fishing industry that relied on the region for livelihood have suffered tremendously all up and down the California and Oregon coast. The region is still an important wetland habitat for the world's largest concentration of bald eagles and migratory birds along and throughout the Pacific Flyway.

Mr. Speaker, we have to work together in a bipartisan manner using the best possible science.

The problems in the Klamath Basin are not about the Endangered Species Act.

The problems are not about farmers vs. wildlife.

We should not derivate the Endangered Species Act.

Instead we should work with the best available science to find a solution to protect our remaining wildlife and at the same time protect the economic viability of the region.

The bottom line is that we have over promised our water in that region.

We need to work together on a bipartisan basis, with the farmers, tribes, fishermen and local communities to form a long-term solution for the Klamath region.

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY FOUNDED ON CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, headlines earlier this month credited widespread consumer conservation with the recent drop in gasoline prices. Those headlines told all of us how much power we really had to reduce the energy demand through conservation.

The Republican energy package introduced next month will include incentives to encourage conservation wherever possible. Conservation is a cornerstone of our energy policy and will be a dominant part of our energy package. We are committed to helping this Nation meet its growing energy needs. We will implement a pragmatic and diverse energy policy that includes greater production of diverse energy supplies. But that package will place an equal reliance on bold and visionary conservation measures. It will include incentives that encourage research into energy efficiency no one has yet dreamed of.

Congress and the White House are committed to a national energy policy founded on conservation, research and

the prudent increase in energy production. Together, these initiatives will help us meet our energy needs through the coming century.

TIME IS LONG OVERDUE TO PASS A PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the time is long overdue to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights that puts medical decisions back in the hands of doctors and patients. It is time to put the public's interest ahead of special interests.

We have a bipartisan piece of legislation. Ganske-Norwood-Dingell ensures that medical decisions come before business decisions. It gives every American the right to choose their own doctor, covers all Americans with employer-based health insurance, ensures that all external reviews of medical decisions are conducted by independent, qualified physicians and not HMO bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, it is a bipartisan bill which has broad public support endorsed by the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association. It is in stark contrast to the bill that the House Republican leadership has offered. That bill is an industry-written bill that is designed to stall and kill a real Patients' Bill of Rights. It does not give Americans the right to choose their doctor. It allows the HMO to choose the independent reviewer. That is like asking the fox to guard the chicken coop.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to pass the Ganske-Norwood-Dingell bill now. It provides sound, responsible managed care reforms and meaningful patient procedures.

HELP NEEDED FOR PATIENTS, NOT TRIAL LAWYERS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we will have a decision in the days to come. Do we opt for a genuine Patients' Bill of Rights, or do we instead follow the siren song of the trial lawyer's right to bill. Make no mistake, when Americans are sick, they do not want to deal with Washington bureaucrats or with insurance company bureaucrats. They want help from medical professionals.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is simple. Are we going to allow patients seeking relief to end up in court or to be treated in a clinic? By the way, do we want to destroy health insurance as we know it? That may be the very serious unintended consequence of people who mean well but seem to put their faith

in healing more in trial lawyers than they do in physicians.

Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon this House to pass a bill that is a help to patients, rather than a boom to the trial lawyer's lobby. Let us opt for the plan of the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) to truly help patients rather than trial lawyers.

AMERICAN FARMLAND STEWARDSHIP ACT

(Mr. PUTNAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce important legislation to assist American farmers and ranchers in achieving valuable conservation goals in the protection of our natural resources.

Today's farmers and ranchers are facing increasing challenges in protecting environmentally sensitive lands while ensuring an abundant, safe food supply. Greater access to conservation programs must be a part of our agricultural policy.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the American Farmland Stewardship Act of 2001 which will help foster responsible care and stewardship of our natural resources by agricultural producers. The Act provides incentive-based initiatives aimed at assisting farmers in meeting environmental requirements and the protection of endangered habitat, wetlands, improved water quality and water access, treatment of discharge, deterrence of invasive species and other important environmental challenges.

The American Farmland Stewardship Act will ensure greater protection of natural resources by providing economic assistance to agricultural producers to improve and protect natural resources and assist farmers and ranchers in staying competitive in the world market.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in co-sponsoring the American Farmland Stewardship Act.

ENERGY SECURITY ACT

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, we are facing an energy shortage. While our demand is continually growing, our production is slowing. Take natural gas as an example. Our demand for natural gas is actually outstripping our demand for oil. By 2020, we will consume 62 percent more natural gas than we do today. We need to act responsibly, and we need to act quickly. We need to open some of our public lands to exploration for natural gas, and we need to build pipelines to deliver it.

Passing the legislation proposed by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), chairman of the Committee on Resources, last night was a step forward in the right direction.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well this morning in strong support of the Community Solutions Act that we will consider shortly today. As our President said just last week, we in Washington cannot make Americans love their neighbors, but we can make resources available to those who have a heart for service, but not a wallet. For too long official Washington has used strict legalism as their excuse for walking by on the other side of the road, denying recognition and assistance to the faith-based institutions who have been making a profound difference in the communities we serve for over 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Solutions Act will bring this era of discrimination to an end. It will empower Americans and institutions of faith by increasing charitable giving through tax deductions, expanding charitable choice to allow religious organizations funds on an equal footing with non-religious institutions and other reforms.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 7 and let a new era of cooperation between public and private organizations that battle poverty and social maladies to begin.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 372, nays 47, answered "present" 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 236]

YEAS—372

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Akin

Allen
Andrews
Arney

Baca
Bachus
Baird

Baker
Baldacci
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel

Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gephardt
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoeffel
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hookey
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Largent
Larson (CT)

Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markley
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Pascarell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce